

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that contains a nucleotide sequence that is the complete complement of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, ~~and hybridizes to at least a portion of a gene for a peripheral-type benzodiazepine receptor (PBR) that encodes SEQ ID NO:3;~~

wherein said nucleic acid, when introduced into a cell line that expresses ~~said a~~ peripheral-type benzodiazepine receptor (PBR) gene inhibits the expression of the gene, ~~and thereby inhibits proliferation of said cell line relative to an otherwise identical cell line which does not comprise said nucleic acid.~~

54. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 53, which possesses a complementary structure to SEQ ID NO:1.

55. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 53, which possesses a complementary structure to SEQ ID NO:2.

56-57. (Canceled)

58. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a malignant cell line that expresses the PBR gene, comprising introducing into said cell line an antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 53 in an amount effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

59. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a malignant cell line that expresses the PBR gene, comprising introducing into said cell line an antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 54 in an amount effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

60. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a malignant cell line that expresses the PBR gene, comprising introducing into said cell line an antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 55 in an amount effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

61. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a malignant cell line that expresses the PBR gene, comprising introducing into said cell line an antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 56 in an amount effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

62. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a malignant cell line that expresses the PBR gene, comprising introducing into said cell line an antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 57 in an amount effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

63. (Withdrawn) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 53, which is comprised in a proteoliposome containing viral envelope receptor proteins.

64. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 53, which is present in a vector.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Withdrawn) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 53, which is contained in a carrier.

67. (Withdrawn) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 66 wherein said carrier is a protein selected from the group consisting of a cytokine or polylysine-glycoprotein carrier.

68. (Withdrawn) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 53, which is comprised in a microbead.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 53, which consists of the complement of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 64, which is synthesized in a mammalian cell following introduction of said vector into said cell.

73. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 72, which is synthesized in ~~and inhibits the proliferation of a human breast cancer cell containing a PBR protein that comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 when the vector is introduced into said cell~~ an amount effective to inhibit PBR expression in the cell.

74. (Currently Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid that is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, or is a fragment of 7 to 40 nucleotides thereof, wherein the isolated nucleic acid hybridizes to nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle;~~

~~wherein the isolated nucleic acid is present in an amount which inhibits the expression of a PBR gene when it is introduced into a mammalian cell that expresses said PBR gene, and thereby inhibits proliferation of said cell relative to an otherwise identical cell which does not contain said antisense oligonucleotide~~ the isolated nucleic acid of claim 53, 81 or 82.

75. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 74, wherein the PBR gene encodes a PBR protein that comprises the mutant residues threonine 147 or arginine 162.

76-77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 74, wherein the nucleic acid is present in a vector and is synthesized in a mammalian cell following introduction of said vector into said cell.

79. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 78, wherein the nucleic acid is synthesized in a mammary gland cell following introduction of said vector into said mammary gland cell.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof.

82. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a PBR comprising SEQ ID NO:3.